

Review of G.I. Bayazitova, D.S. Mityureva. "On the threshold of the state's origin: language, law and philosophy in Jean Bodin's political theory. Tyumen: Tyumen State University, 2012. 240 p.*

Social thought is mobile. It is generally agreed that Jean Bodin, to whom the monograph under review is devoted, exerted significant influence upon the evolution of the social and political theories of the 16th — 17th centuries. In particular he was rated highly and his works were published in a situation where the throne needed to extend its perquisites and tried to convey across nationals a simple message. The idea was that just as God maintained global order so the King as God's minister was destined to maintain the sovereign order.

Studying Jean Bodin's works has been a long-standing tradition. It is encouraging to note that the authors of the monograph managed to find their own interpretation of the selected topic. Their schemes are based on investigation of the political language of Jean Bodin, on those metaphors, patterns, linguistic practices, which are typical of his two principal works, namely "The Six Books of the Commonwealth" and "Method for the Easy Comprehension of History". To carry out the content analysis the authors had to consult specialized computer program makers. The monograph demonstrates that Bodin invoked the antique heritage and Roman law, filling the patterns of the past with new ideas. Alongside that, the authors do not forget to reproduce the tension of the political situation 16th Century France.

The authors point out that Bodin's theory of the Commonwealth appeared to be the response to religious dissention, discord and civil war. In his writings Bodin disputes implicitly with monarchomachs (followers of the idea of popular sovereignty) and mixed monarchy upholders. Bodin remains the proponent of indivisible sovereignty, relating it to absolute monarchical power. The monarch holding sovereign power has no outer limitations except for God's law, he is responsible only to God and natural justice. The King's absolute power represents the only guarantee against revolts and destruction of the State political body's harmonious hierarchical system.

A specific part of the book deals with the impact of hermetic heritage and Platonism (including Neoplatonism) on Jean Bodin. His work with numbers and geometrical figures has been reproduced. As an order concept follower, Bodin believed that only compliance with the principle of harmonic (i.e. accepting inequality, achievements and merits) justice made the Commonwealth steady and stable. Such an order though is more complicated than the one based on proportional divisions and numbers, i.e. on arithmetical and geometrical justice rules.

A wide range of annotations are worth mentioning in particular. These notes include the tables where the authors' findings are presented including lexical items by Jean Bodin, as well as the translation of one chapter of "The Six Books of the Commonwealth".

It appears that the monograph is rather excessively discursive and rational. For all that, Jean Bodin lived in the age when the dynamic world view was just in the process of superseding the static one; when thinking in categories did not exclude metaphoric thought, and conceptual ambivalence was a common phenomenon; it is this subject matter that the book lacks a little.

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